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United States Senate

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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March 29, 1983

Note: Sent to all Members of the SSCI

83-1060

The Honorable _____
 Room _____, _____ Senate
 Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear _____:

On Thursday, March 24, 1983, the full Committee held a hearing on Intelligence Community publication of unclassified reports on Soviet expenditures. The purpose of this hearing was to have the Director of Central Intelligence, Bill Casey, explain why the CIA will no longer make available to the public its dollar cost comparison of Soviet and U.S. Defense Expenditures and a document titled Communist Aid Activities in Non-Communist Less Developed Countries.

Director Casey spent over an hour at this hearing explaining the decision for terminating public dissemination of these two reports. This decision was apparently made several years ago. Enclosed for your information are copies of the Director's talking points on this subject as well as a copy of his complete statement before the Committee.

Quite frankly, I do not believe that the decision to cancel dissemination of these two reports was a good one. These are just the sort of reports that the CIA should be making available to the public so they can better understand the magnitude and the nature of Soviet defense expenditures, as well as their aid activities to non-communist less developed countries around the world. This is especially important now when not only the Federal Government here in Washington, D.C., but the whole nation is being asked to support major U.S. defense expenditures in the context of what we understand to be the Soviet threat.

Because of the controversial nature of this issue, I told Director Casey that the Committee will withhold any further judgment until all the Members had had an opportunity to review his testimony in full. I would be most appreciative if you could let me know by April 8, 1983, whether or not you think the CIA should continue publication of these documents in an unclassified form. Please feel free to contact me directly or have your staff notify the Clerk of the Committee, Dot Roberson, about your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Barry Goldwater
 Chairman